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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/964,590	09/28/2001	Abdulahi Mohamed	50035-1	2392

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EXAMINER
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LU, SHIRLEY

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2612

DATE MAILED: 11/28/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/964,590

Applicant(s)

MOHAMED, ABDULAH

Examiner

Shirley Lu

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 October 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-29 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_

### DETAILED ACTION

Applicant's remarks have been read and considered.

Applicant filed an RCE.

This action is made non-final.

### Response to Arguments

- a. Applicant argues on page 6, that the prior art of record fails to disclose the limitations of claim 16.

In response, examiner respectfully defers to the office action below.

- b. Applicant argues on page 7, that the prior art of record fails to disclose the limitations of claim 26.

In response, examiner respectfully defers to the office action below.

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

- 1. Claim(s) 16-19, 26-29 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Wagner (6236303).**

As to claim 16, Wagner discloses:

A device for displaying multiple pre-programmed messages, comprising:

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a first housing adapted to be mounted in a first location, a first electronic display mounted in the first housing (fig. 2, 4; [4, 4-13]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]),  
a first central processing unit associated with the first housing and  
being operably connected to the first electronic display for communicating display instructions to the first electronic display to generate a viewable message based on a selected message signal ([4, 4-13]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]);

a second housing adapted to be mounted in a second location, a second electronic display mounted in said second housing (fig. 1, 3; [3, 34-52]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]),

a second central processing unit associated with the second housing and having a plurality of programmed message signals ([3, 34-52]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]),  
means for conducting electric signals between the first central processing unit and the second central processing unit such that the second central processing unit is operably connected to the first central processing unit for communicating the selected message signal to the first central processing unit ([4, 17-44]; [5, 1-55]; [4, 4-13]),  
the second central processing unit further being operably connected to the second electronic display for communicating display instructions to the second electronic display to generate a viewable message based on the selected message signal ([3, 34-52]; [5, 1-55]);

message selection means associated with the second housing and being operably connected to the second central processing unit for enabling a user to select from the plurality of programmed message signals, the second central processing unit communicating the selected message signal to the second electronic display to

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generate the viewable message and further communicating the selected message signal to the first central processing unit (fig. 3; [3, 53] to [4, 3]); and

a source of electricity associated with one of said first or second housings for supplying electric power to the device ([4, 13-16]).

As to claim 17, Wagner discloses:

the message selection means comprises a plurality of buttons, each button being associated with a programmed message signal corresponding to a message to be displayed ([6, 15-25]).

As to claim 18, Wagner discloses:

the first and second electronic displays each comprises an LCD display [6, 4-15].

As to claim 19, Wagner discloses:

said first and second housings are adapted to be secured to opposite sides of a door and the means for conducting electric signals between the first central processing unit and the central second processing unit extends through the door ([6, 15-25]).

As to claim 26, Wagner discloses:

A device for displaying multiple pre-preprogrammed messages, comprising:

a first housing adapted to be mounted in a first location; a first electronic display screen mounted in said first housing (fig. 2, 4; [4, 4-13]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]);

a second housing adapted to be mounted in a second location; a second electronic display screen mounted in said second housing (fig. 1, 3; [3, 34-52]);

a first central processing unit for providing display information to said display screen in said first housing ([4, 4-13]; [5, 1-55]);

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a second central processing unit for providing display information to said display screen in said second housing ([3, 34-52]; [5, 1-55]; [6, 4-15]),

a power source in one of said first or second housings for supplying electric power to said display screens and said first and second central processing units [4, 13-16];

means for selecting a message to be displayed on said first and second displays (fig. 3; [3, 53] to [4, 3]); and

means for conducting electric signals between said first and second central processing units ([4, 17-44]; [5, 1-55]; [4, 4-13]).

As to claim 27,

said first and second display screens each comprises an LCD display ([6, 4-15]).

As to claim 28, see claim 19.

As to claim 29, see claim 23.

### **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103**

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

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**2. Claim(s) 20 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303).**

As to claim 20,

Wagner discloses a power source comprising a battery ([4, 13-16]).

Wagner does not specifically disclose the specific location of the battery.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner to teach said source of electricity comprises a battery mounted in one of said first or second housings, based on the system's diction of the environment and design.

**3. Claim(s) 21 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Herz (20060069749).**

As to claim 21,

Wagner discloses: a motion sensor ([5, 20-55]).

Wagner does not specifically disclose the first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing.

Herz discloses: a first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing [0042].

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It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner to teach the first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing, so as to save power and allow the device to be turned off based on motion detector.

**4. Claim(s) 22-25 is/are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Wagner (6236303) in view of Morris (6768424).**

As to claim 22, 23,

Wagner does not specifically teach said first and second processing units are adapted to communicate wirelessly by audio frequency or radio frequency.

Morris discloses a wireless communication between two devices using audio or radio frequency ([1, 57-60]).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner to teach said first and second processing units are adapted to communicate wirelessly by audio frequency or radio frequency, so as to allow two remotely location devices to communicate wirelessly.

As to claim 24,

Wagner discloses:



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the message selection means comprises a plurality of buttons, each button being associated with a programmed message signal corresponding to a message to be displayed ([6, 15-25]).

As to claim 25,

Wagner discloses: a motion sensor ([5, 20-55]).

Wagner in view of Morris does not specifically disclose the first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing.

Herz discloses: a first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing [0042].

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to modify Wagner in view of Morris to teach the first housing includes a motion sensor for sensing motion in the vicinity of the first housing, the motion sensor being operable to turn off the first electronic display in the absence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing to reduce electricity consumption, and to turn on the first display in the presence of motion in the vicinity of the first housing, so as to save power and allow the device to be turned off based on motion detector.

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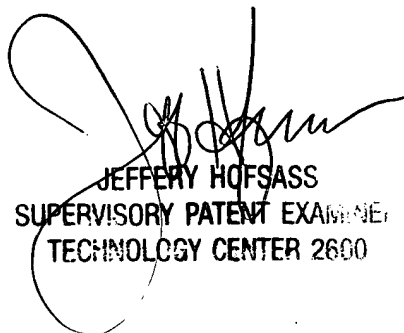
### Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Shirley Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-8546. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00 M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jeff Hofsass can be reached on (571) 272-2981. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

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